— Privatisation of distribution

25 States have signed Memorandum of Understanding for undertaking reforms and restructuring in a time bound manner and linking the support of Government of India to achievement of predetermined milestones.To bring about commitment towards distribution reforms, State Electricity Boards/Utilities have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power as a pre-requisite for release of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) funds. Till now 18 States have signed the MoA. A number of States have enacted anti-electricity theft legislation.

To reduce the transmission and distribution losses in a phased manner, the Government of India has launched the APDRP in February 2000.The APDRP includes upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network, energy audit activities and metering in a phased manner.

Statehood to Delhi

*314. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as on date Delhi has the status of a State of the Indian Union;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to confer Statehood to Delhi in the near future;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) With a view to evolving a consensus amongst political parties and other stakeholders on grant of Statehood to Delhi and institutional and structural changes that would follow the Statehood, Government of India have sought the views of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in the matter. Considering the nature of the process, no definite timeframe can be prescribed for granting Statehood to Delhi.